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Asia concerns spread due to rogue US wheat

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Japan and South Korea suspended some imports of US wheat yesterday as American regulators investigated the discovery in an Oregon field of rogue wheat genetically engineered to resist Monsanto herbicide.

US regulators insisted that the wheat carries no risks, but the outcome of the probe -- namely finding out whether such wheat is growing elsewhere -- could have a wider impact on world markets, with the US the biggest global exporter of wheat.

"No one wants genetically engineered wheat," said Bill Freese, science policy analyst at the Center for Food Safety, recalling that massive opposition in 2004 led seed giant Monsanto to pull back from its bid to commercialize it.

GE wheat is not approved for commercial sale anywhere in the world, but some herbicide-resistant plants were found in April on an Oregon farm, triggering a government investigation, officials announced on Wednesday.

Market jitters ensued as Japan canceled a bid for 25,000 tons of US wheat, and the European Union told its member

states to test imports from the area, saying any genetically modified wheat would not be sold to consumers.

Taiwan's Flour Millers Association said imports from the United States were under review, according to Dow Jones Newswires.

South Korea's millers association also temporarily suspended purchases of soft white wheat from the United States, according to the US Wheat Associates and the National Association of Wheat Growers. Both groups urged nations not to overreact.

"Because of the isolated nature of this discovery, there appears to be little scientific reason for governments to suspend US soft white wheat purchases," the groups said. "USDA made it clear that there is no evidence suggesting that this material has entered commercial supplies and that there is no health risk associated with it."

The altered wheat is glyphosate resistant, which means it contains a transgene that allows it to survive when a popular weed killer made by Monsanto, called Roundup, is sprayed on fields.

Continued on page 5

Aruba Travel Expo 2013 takes place next week

Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) Chief Marketing Officer Sanju Luiden and Trade Relations Manager Valery Habibe were joined by Jessica Wouters of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) in announcing that over 200 travel agents from North America are expected for the Aruba Travel Expo, or ATEX, 2013.

The five-day event begins on Thursday evening, June 6, with a welcome reception at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino. Several AHATA resorts are hosting the travel agents. These travel agents consider the updates of the ATEX convention and being well informed about Aruba for their clients important enough to invest out of their own pockets to keep current.

The travel agents will spend the majority of their time touring resorts and experiencing what is fresh and interesting on Aruba for their clients. The final reception will be conducted in the Plaza Turismo, which officially opened on March 17, so this will definitely be something new for the visiting travel agents, most of which are veterans to the ATEX.

The official opening ceremonies will take place on Fri-



Jessica Wouters of AHATA and Sanju Luiden and Valerie Habibe of ATA

day morning, June 7, in the ballroom of the Radisson Resort, Casino & Spa. It will feature updates on Aruba's tourism product, with presentations by Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber, the ATA CEO Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes and AHATA CEO Jim Hepple, on how their organizations contribute to the its advancement. The ATA has invited Sales & Marketing Guru Cheryl Gregory, considered "a wiz" at person-

ality profiling, as the guest motivational speaker for the event.

Saturday, travel agents will have the opportunity to travel on Oranjestad's new solar-operated tram, with the opportunity to sample one of several restaurants in town taking part in a special shopping tour. This year, more of Oranjestad and Aruba beyond the resorts and typical tourist venues will be featured during the various excursions arranged for the delegates.

IMF releases 1.7bn euros for Greece

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The International Monetary Fund released 1.74 billion euros (\$2.26 billion) in fresh funds for Greece late yesterday after the country passed the third review of its performance under the joint IMF-EU bailout program.

Earlier yesterday the European Financial Stability Facility also released another aid installment, worth 7.2 billion euros, to help recapitalize Greece's stricken banks.

The funding is part of the 173-billion-euro, four-year program to put Athens's finances on a stable path. The IMF so far has released 6.57 billion euros to Greece under the program.

Under tough austerity dictated by the program, Greek economic growth continues to sag, challenging its ability to meet benchmarks set by the European Union and the IMF.

In Athens yesterday the head of eurozone finance ministers said the group

could discuss further debt relief for Greece next April if the government continues to meet the conditions of its recovery program.

Eurogroup chief Jeroen Dijsselbloem stressed that it was "crucial" for Greece to continue with its structural reforms as he held out hope for a long-awaited exit from a six-year recession.

"We have the first signals of the return of the economy... for economic recovery next year," he said.

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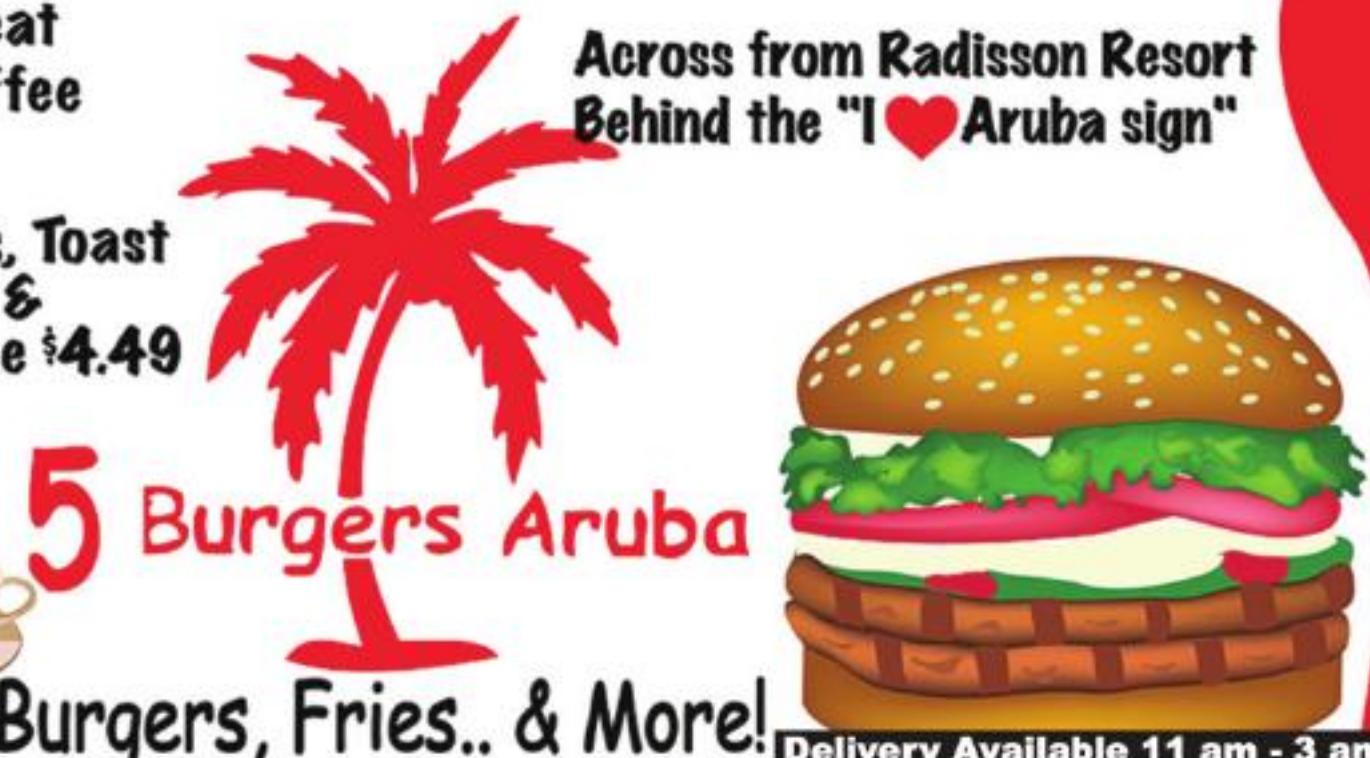
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Healthy Schools' Program approved by Ministers



What is a healthy School?

A healthy school is a structural and sustainable manner to work on the improvement of the health of a child and the teacher so as to improve the health and performance of the child. This is not a project, but rather a part of the management of the school. Every school has to determine individually what their priorities are and prepare a Health Plan in accordance with their priorities.

In November 2011 by means of a Ministerial Decree (MB) a work group was installed with the task of preparing a Strategic plan, dubbed, Scol Saludabel

abel na Aruba (Healthy Schools on Aruba). Most recently in the month of May 2013, they organized a workshop to achieve said Health Plan for Schools (2013-2016). The Strategic Plan for Healthy Schools on Aruba will entail a management plan which has to delineate the specific steps to take to achieve this Health Plan fitting for Aruba. They have used examples and strategies from different countries, both from Latin America, Europe and the USA.

A concept plan has been designed and was approved by two Ministers of government, namely, the Minister of Education and of Public Health, and

by the Council of Ministers.

The next step is to prepare an implementation plan. They again installed, via another MB, a group for the implementation consisting of 2 representatives of the Department of Education, 4 of the Department of Public Health, 1 from the Department of Social Affairs, and one member from IPA.

They chose 5 schools to begin the implementation process: Mon Plaisir Elementary, and Kindergarten Schools Kudawechha Elementary School, Cacique Macuarima, and St. Paulus Elementary School. These schools were chosen based on such criteria as: their locations (different districts), have teachers giving movement and health classes, have an active Parent-Teacher Association, etc.

WORKSHOP

In the month of May they organized a workshop and invited 2 experts from the Health and Youth Inspection Department from Holland to provide guidance of the implementation for the 5 pilot schools. The implementation process will begin in the upcoming school year 2013-2014.

The workshop provided everyone with a clear understanding of the concept of a Healthy School, better view of how the implementation process should go and the beginning phase of the Plan for each of the pilot schools. Hopefully soon other schools will take the initiative to work on a concept for their schools as well.

Mrs. Miriam Baiz is the leader of the implementation process, and was grateful for the support she has received thus far from all government officials for this very significant project.

For more information, visit: www.ea.aw/scol-saludabel.



Government signs bilateral agreement with Brazil

ORANJESTAD --

After a lengthy negotiation process Aruba successfully signed an agreement with Brazil last Wednesday. This bilateral aviation agreement stands to benefit both countries according to the Aruba Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber.

A very important part of the relationship between the two countries was realized during the Europe Meets the Americas Conference here. It was there that Aruba demonstrated her interest to form part of the connection between the European continent and Latin America.

The memorandum of Understanding signed between Aruba and Brazil is of great importance for both tourism, the number one economic pillar of Aruba, and for the diversification of Aruba as a gateway to Europe, Latin America and the USA.

Brazil, the Aruba Minister explained, will also benefit in that they will enjoy a flow of tourists from Aruba to Brazil.

With this agreement, Aruba will be fortifying her air communication between the two countries. The Minister indicated that the agreement is very advanced, flexible and liberal and that Brazil brings opportunities for local airlines entering the Brazilian market.

The agreement creates the possibility, just like in the case with Colombia, for three local airlines to fly directly to and from any destination in Brazil with the possibility for eventual expansion.

Our local airlines can now fly to any destination within Brazil, a market with the potential for becoming the biggest market from Latin America after Venezuela, making it the third largest and most important market for Aruba. It is no secret that visitors from Brazil are heavy spenders, leaving sizeable amounts into our local economy.

All in all, a very important agreement for Aruba and her growing economy!

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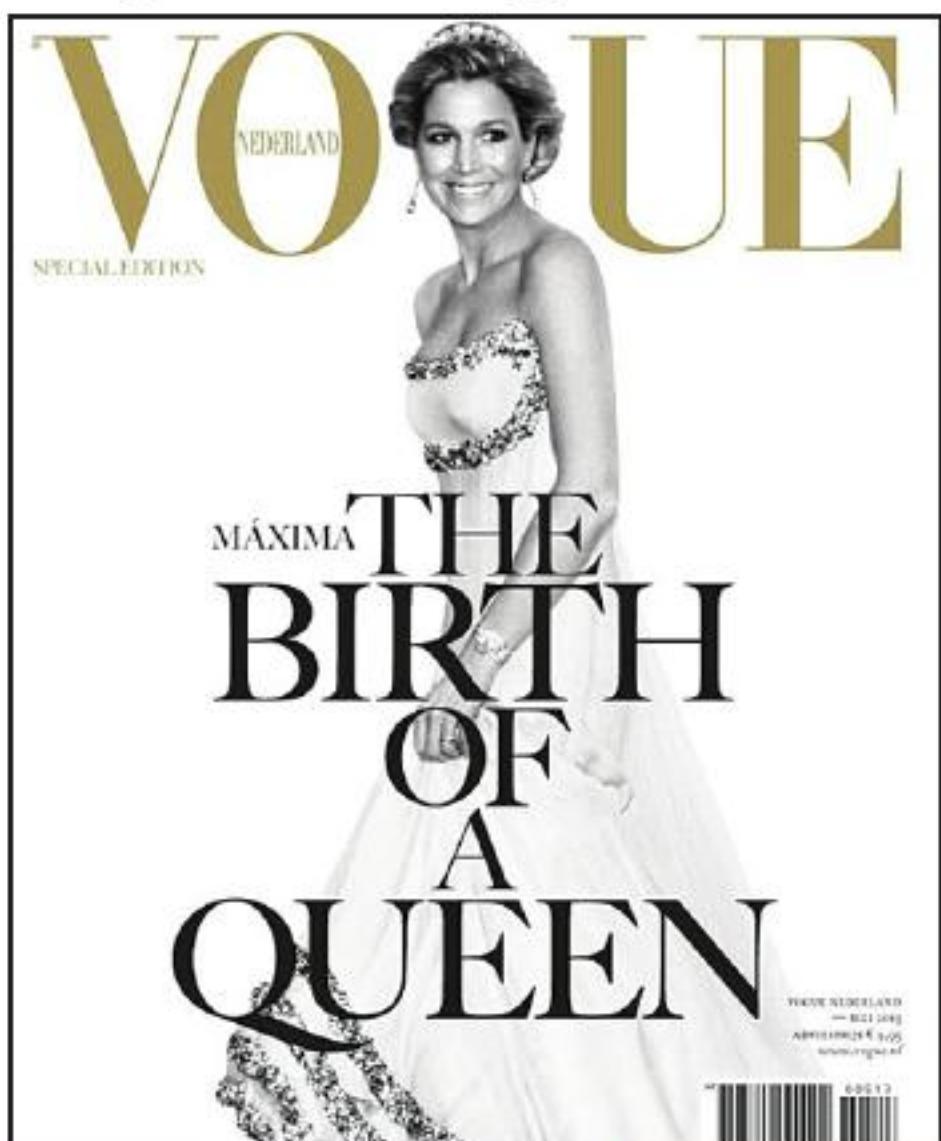
Queen Maxima's Vogue Netherlands cover is absolutely stunning

Times are good for Queen Maxima. First, she upgraded her title from princess to queen, then she kicked off May by landing her very first Vogue cover. Not too shabby, eh?

The Argentinian export is featured on a special edition of Vogue Netherlands, entitled "The Birth Of A Queen."

The May 2013 cover shot isn't one that Maxima posed for, but rather a revamped photo from a previous glitzy engagement. Maxima wore a white Jan Taminiau gown paired with a tiara -- could you get more regal?

Vogue thinks the 42-year-old royal would approve of the magazine's outfit choice, since she chose another show-stopping Taminiau number for the big Dutch inauguration last month.



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Help for becoming a more critical consumer

ORANJESTAD -- The "Huur- en Consumentenzaken" (Rent and Consumer Affairs Department) has taken notice that complaints registered against construction companies or of construction services are made primarily by women. This Department are not exactly aware of the cause, however they want to alert all consumers, male and female to become more critical whenever they present work to be done by these and other companies. The complaints include a variety of companies and for different types of products.

At this Department the complaints include, for example that: the companies begin the repair work in the home but then never complete the work, they failed to repair the roof adequately, the work was done very sloppily and of poor quality, the company built a swimming pool and in a very short

time the pool deck is broken or the company poured a floor which ended up with multiple cracks in no time.

For this reason, the Department has issued this bulletin to urge consumers to pay careful attention when purchasing services or making use of the services of construction companies. They should consider the following advice (tips):

Get at least three quotations from at least 3 companies.

Get references from previous jobs and go by and see their previous work

Ask around from friends or others in the construction world if they know the people and about what they know about their work

Ask if the company will provide a guarantee of their work and what the guarantee will cover

Check the credentials of the company, etc. By this they mean ask what kind of professional preparation they have for the type of work you want done

Make very clear commitments regarding: price, date to begin the job, time the job will be completed, etc. If possible make a firm contract with conditions suitable to both parties.

Put your work expectations on paper. Provide instructions in writing for both of you to be transparent with one another.

Always request receipts for payments made. It is always best to make payments in installments as the work progresses.

Make certain to indicate mistakes and reprimand immediately about errors made. When reprimanded be serious without losing your respect nor make insults.

For more information regarding the laws dealing with the rights of consumers, register a complaint or forms of abuse against consumers, call or come by personally at the Dienst Huur- en Consumentenzaken at Wayaca 33, Tel: 582-9914. Or go online at: www.dhc.aw, like them on facebook or twitter or email at info@dhc.aw.

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Radiology Department of Hospital introduces new PACS system



Aruba's Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital has recently introduced the new "Picture Archiving and Communication System," better known as the PACS system.

What makes this system so interesting and efficient is that there is no more need to print images as these are now digitized and immediately available. This makes the results immediately visible to the radiologist who can in turn make his diagnosis of the photos

taken. It is even possible for the radiologist to view the digital photo at his home. This means that there is no need to wait for the radiologist on duty; one can work more efficiently and save time. Based on the digital images, the department can prepare their report, process them, file them in their archives and distribute them to the specialist in a much more efficient manner.

Another benefit of this system is that the images in the

system can be seen by anyone authorized to see these at any moment, for example the specialist. The Hospital is making every attempt to integrate the system of information of the Hospital by the end of July so that it can be linked to the medical specialists so they can have access to these digital photos.

On Tuesday, May 14th they began using the PACS system after receiving extensive training on the proper use of the equipment. Most of the radiologists have experience with PACS because of their exposure with it abroad. Mrs. Patti Brossard of the Cerner Company provided several sessions for all Hospital employees to introduce them to the new system.

The PACS system will save the Hospital considerable funds and after some time it will also increase the flow of efficiency for patients. This investment of the Hospital is with a view of providing quality service to the patients of our Hospital.

Mr. Thomas McKenna honored at Divi Village Resort



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a loyal friend, Mr. Thomas McKenna of Boca Raton, Florida, as Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. This symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 or more consecutive years. Mr. McKenna has been vacationing here for 11 consecutive years and is a member of the Divi Village Resort. A certificate was presented to him by Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Mills of the Divi Village Resort.

Photo shows Mr. McKenna, accompanied by a friend, proudly showing off his certificate.

Delivering improved 24-hour service

Aruba Bank inaugurates an additional A.T.M. at the Texaco Service Station

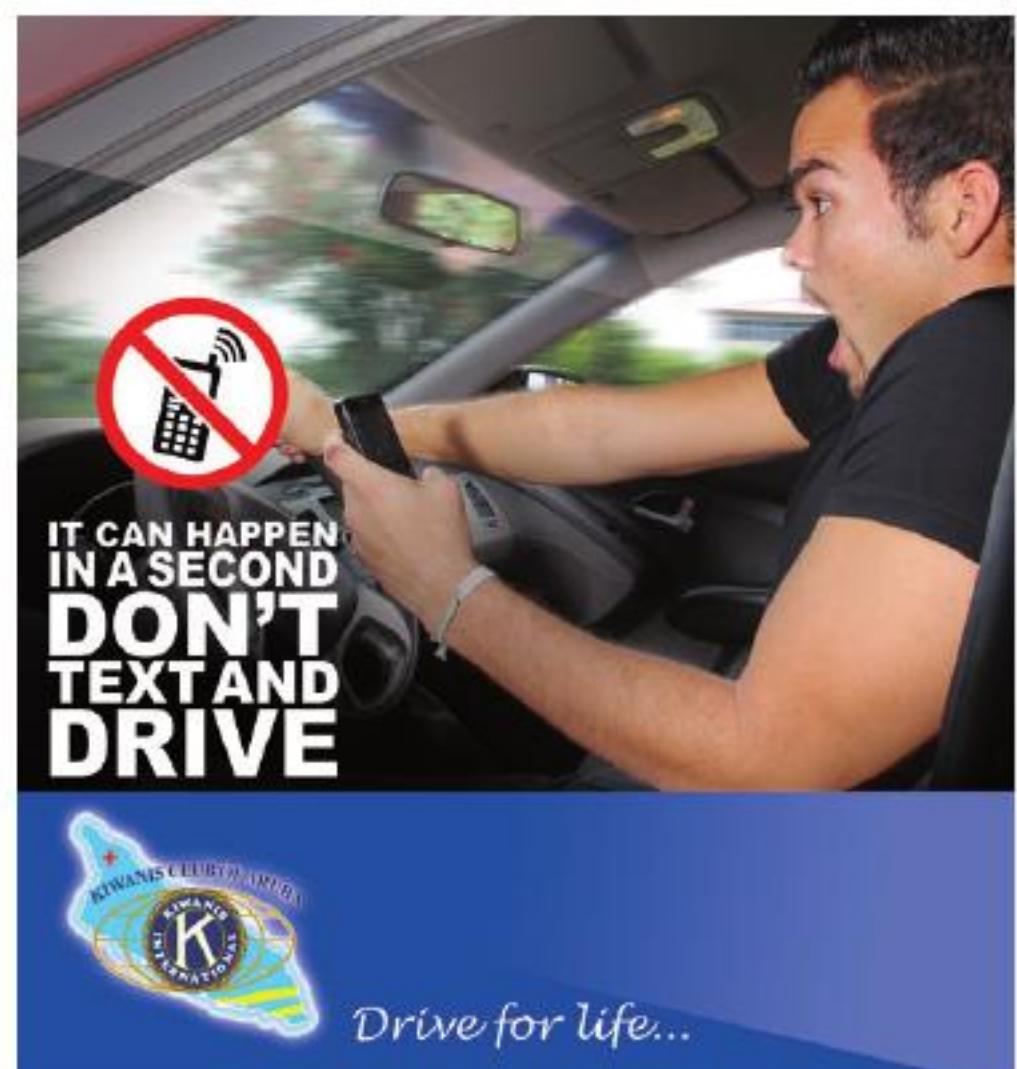


Aruba Bank is proud to announce a new ATM location, at the Texaco Service Station in Wayaca. The ATM is designed to answer the needs of those stopping at the service station for gas, and in general provide easy access to cash to neighboring businesses, any time of the day.

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the Aruba Bank ATMs are the following: Cash withdrawals and deposits 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at no extra charge.

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Spain police seize three tons of cocaine on boat

MADRID (AFP) - Spanish police seized a boat carrying three tons of cocaine in the Atlantic and arrested 21 people including the vessel's Korean captain and Indonesian crew, officials said yesterday.

National police officers boarded a fishing boat in the Atlantic ocean with more than three tons of cocaine in parcels, on Wednesday, a police statement said yesterday.

"The captain of the boat, who is a Korean national, and

four crew members of Indonesian origin, were arrested" and a further 16 people were detained on land on Thursday, it added.

Police officials contacted by AFP were unable to specify for the time being whether the captain was from South or North Korea.

The statement said the racket involved a "Venezuelan organisation" active in the northwestern Spanish region of Galicia, where most of the arrests were made in the raids, codenamed Operation

Albatross.

Police carried out 10 raids in various locations and seized firearms, computers, documents and vehicles.

Spain is considered a major entry point for drugs into Europe from South America and elsewhere.

On May 6 police said they had seized 52 tons of hashish, a European record, at a warehouse in the southern city of Cordoba, and arrested three people.

In March they seized two tons of cocaine on another

boat bound for Europe from Venezuela.

Spain seized nearly 21 tons of cocaine last year, 25 percent more than in the previous year and 326 tons of hashish, down 8.5 percent from 2011, Interior Minister Jorge Fernandez-Diaz said last month.

That represented 41 percent of the total amount of cocaine seized in Europe last year and 74 percent of the hashish, according to the minister.

Rogue US wheat

Continued from page 1

The GE wheat was tested at more than 100 sites in the United States from 1998 to 2005, but the last approved field trials in Oregon were in 2001, according to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Monsanto said it was cooperating with the probe and vowed to "conduct a rigorous investigation to validate the scope of and to address any presence of a Monsanto Roundup Ready event in commercial wheat seed."

The same GE technology is already widely used in soybeans and maize in the United States, and allows farmers to spray their fields with weed killers without harming the main crop.

"The first thing to know is it is perfectly safe. It was fully tested by Monsanto prior to 2005," said Ronnie Coffman, professor of plant breeding and director of international programs of the college of agriculture and life sciences at Cornell University.

"Wheat farmers have wanted it all along, but there is the sense that the issue among the big wheat exporting nations is sort of 'You first.'

"The Americans don't want to do biotech wheat before the Canadians do because they are afraid they might lose market share. The Canadians, the Americans, the Australians are all big wheat exporters and are all very sensitive to the market forces."

Consumer advocates said US regulators have failed to protect the food supply from GE crop contamination, noting that Food and Drug Administration safety reviews of GE crops before market release are voluntary.

Freese said the situation in Oregon "shows the total inadequacy of the regulatory system" for GE crops.

Other concerns include the potential human and animal impacts of the rising use of Roundup, with more chemicals being used in the environment because more crops are now modified to be resistant.

The FDA concluded in its 2004 review of Monsanto's research that the GE wheat variety was as safe for use in animal feed and human food as non-GE wheat on the market.

The wheat market could face more pressure as a result of the Oregon incident, according to analyst Frank Cholly of RJO Futures, who said jitters could spread like "a contagion, it may become more widespread."



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Environmentalist found dead on Costa Rica beach



SAN JOSE (AFP) - An environmentalist who worked as a volunteer for a turtle protection project and denounced threats by criminal groups was found dead on a beach in Costa Rica frequented by drug traffickers, authorities said yesterday.

The police of Limon, a province about 170 kilometers east of the capital San Jose, identified the victim as 26-year-old Jairo Mora Sandoval.

Sandoval's body was found

face-down and handcuffed next to the car he was driving, police told AFP.

Authorities declined to provide more details on the case, saying only that an investigation was under way.

Didiher Chacon, director of the Widecast turtle protection network for which Mora volunteered, said he was on a morning patrol with other volunteers when four masked men approached them, bound them and locked them in an abandoned house.

The others are well and managed to escape and notify police, who found Mora on the beach, Chacon said.

Mora monitored nesting turtles, recording the number of nests and trying to rescue eggs, Chacon added, noting the group's program was entirely volunteer-based and dependent on donations.

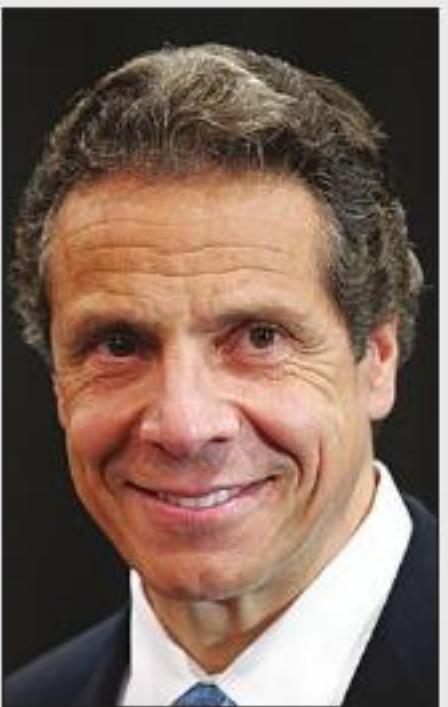
Mora had complained in a La Nacion newspaper report published in April that the area's environmentalists were threatened by criminal organizations apparently because those engaged in looting turtle nests are linked to drug traffickers.

"That cost him his life," Chacon said.

He described Limon as a no man's land.

"We have all received threats so that we leave when all we want is to protect the turtles," he added.

Photo above shows Sandoval during one of his expeditions.



NEW YORK - AFP photo shows New York Governor Andrew Cuomo as he announced a new bill with tougher penalties for texting while driving at a press conference at the Javits convention center in New York City yesterday. The governor proposed additional penalties for young and new drivers ahead of the summer school break.

Colombia leader denies Venezuela destabilization charge

BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos yesterday dismissed as "preposterous" Venezuelan charges that his government is backing a conspiracy to destabilize the leftist-ruled neighbor.

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro leveled the charge late Thursday, angrily accusing the Colombian leader of stabbing Caracas in the back by meeting with Venezuelan opposition leader Henrique Capriles.

"It's preposterous to think that the Colombian government is aware of, or even worse, that it is supporting some kind of action to destabilize the government of Venezuela," Santos said. "We would be the worst affected if Venezuela had some kind of problem. What we want is for things to go well for Venezuela."

Tensions have soared between the two countries since Santos welcomed Capriles to the presidential palace here on Wednesday. A photograph of the two shaking hands got wide play in Venezuela, where Capriles and Maduro are locked in a bitter dispute over the outcome of April 14 presidential elections to replace the late Hugo Chavez.

Maduro was proclaimed the winner by a 1.5 percent margin, but Capriles has refused to concede, insisting that the election was stolen. His visit to Bogota was seen as part of an effort to get international support for his cause.

Venezuela reacted by recalling its representative to peace talks in Havana between the Colombian government and the country's largest guerrilla group, and announcing it was reviewing relations with Bogota.

Maduro late Thursday accused Santos of playing into the hands of a right-wing conspiracy to destabilize the Venezuelan government.

Venezuela and Colombia had tense relations during much of Chavez's 14 years in power, but Santos has worked to improve them despite ideological differences with the leftist government in Caracas. Yesterday, he recalled an agreement he reached with Chavez in 2010 to restore relations.

Earlier, Colombia's chief negotiator at the peace talks with the FARC acknowledged that Venezuela had played a positive role "and we do not want this to be interrupted."

ICC rejects Libya bid to halt Kadhafi son prosecution

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The International Criminal Court yesterday rejected Tripoli's bid to halt its prosecution of slain leader Moamer Kadhafi's son Seif al-Islam for crimes against humanity committed while trying to put down Libya's bloody revolt in 2011.

"The chamber concluded that it has not been sufficiently demonstrated that (Libya's) domestic investigation (covers) the same case that is before the court," the Hague-based ICC said in a statement on the long-awaited decision.

The ICC, which was mandated by the UN Security Council to investigate the Libyan conflict, issued an arrest warrant for Seif al-Islam, 40, his strongman father Moamer Kadhafi, now deceased, and his spy chief Abdallah Senussi in June 2011.

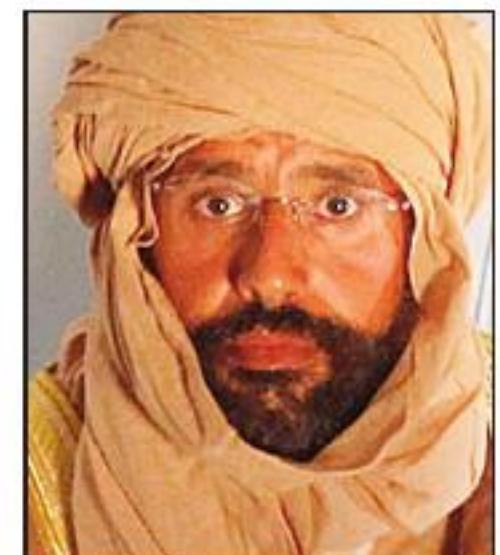
The court however has clashed with Tripoli over where he should be tried after he was captured by anti-Kadhafi fighters near the western town of Zintan in November 2011, where he is currently still being held.

Libya challenged the ICC's bid in May last year, saying the North African country had the means at its disposal to put him in the dock in a local court.

The ICC then also postponed its request for Libya to surrender Seif al-Islam until judges ruled on the challenge.

Tripoli has made progress in its own investigations into Seif al-Islam's role during Libya's revolt, sparked in mid-February 2011, including the mobilisation of militias, military forces and equipment and the arrests of journalists and activists, the judges said yesterday.

But after looking at Libya's challenge, they concluded that "taken as a whole... evidence did not allow the chamber to discern the actual contours of the national case against Mr Kadhafi such that Libya could



said to have substantiated."

Libya has been plagued by a security breakdown since the uprising, with abductions and other crimes taking place frequently, and the new government is still unable to control the former rebels who overthrew Kadhafi.

The judges said "serious concerns" remained whether Libya was in fact able "genuinely to carry out the investigation or prosecution against Mr Kadhafi."

They acknowledged that Tripoli "deployed significant efforts to rebuild institutions and restore the rule of law" and improve security after the conflict, but said it "continued to face substantial difficulties in exercising its judicial powers fully across the entire territory."

This included the fact that Tripoli has not been able to secure Seif al-Islam's transfer from Zintan into state custody. Judges found "no concrete progress... had been shown since the date of his apprehension on November 19, 2011."

They were "not persuaded that the problem would be resolved in the near future," the judges added.

The court also pointed out that Libya lacked the capacity to get relevant testimony and was unable to provide adequate witness protection and that there were serious stumbling blocks in securing a lawyer for Seif.

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International News

Venezuelan police tout raid of toilet paper cache

CARACAS (AFP) - It had all the makings of a routine bust: an anonymous tipoff to the cops, a raid on a hideout, a triumphant Interior Ministry tweet. The loot? Roll after roll of toilet paper.

The government said police had found 2,450 bales of toilet paper in a working class neighborhood called Antimano, west of Caracas, thanks to an anonymous phone call to a police tipoff line.

The paper was stored "in a clandestine warehouse," Interior Minister Miguel Rodriguez Torres said on Twitter.

Also seized were 7,000 liters of fruit juice and 400 packages of diapers.

An investigation has been launched to determine where all the merchandise came from and who it was for, National Police chief Luis Karabin said.

Venezuela may be oil rich, but its economy is struggling.

Toilet rolls are one of the five most sought-after basics that are in severe shortage, the others being toothpaste, toilet soap, diapers and feminine hygiene napkins.

Price controls and red tape, which makes it hard for would-be importers to get the hard currency they need to buy the products, have contributed to the shortage.

The government of the new president Nicolas Maduro announced this month it was importing 50 million rolls of toilet paper. And Congress approved an 80 million dollar loan to import loads of the five scarce essentials.

The shortages have prompted the government to hold meetings with businessman in various economic sectors.

They have even accused the conservative opposition of hoarding toilet paper and other essentials to sabotage the economy.

Price controls were introduced for certain basic goods in 2003 after an oil industry strike paralyzed the economy, sent inflation soaring and led to shortages of goods.

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Mexico's ex-president backs US pot drive

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Former Mexican president Vicente Fox threw his weight Thursday behind a US entrepreneur's drive to build a nationwide legal market for marijuana in the United States.

Fox, Mexico's leader from 2000-2006, appeared at a Seattle press conference where businessman James Shively said the US states of Washingt-

ton and Colorado are spearheading a move to tear down the "Berlin Wall" of pot criminalization.

"In Mexico we welcome this initiative, because the cost of the war in the case of Mexico is becoming unbearable," said Fox, referring to deadly drug violence which has ravaged America's southern neighbor.

The cost was "too high for

Mexico, Latin America, and the rest of the world -- the impact on the economy, on income, on tourism, investment but also talent ... and 80,000 kids' death in the last six years," he said.

"All this because our neighbor to the north represents such a gigantic consumer market. We must get out of this trap, and here is the opportunity," he added.

Drug-linked violence exploded in Mexico after Fox's successor Felipe Calderon deployed 50,000 troops to fight the cartels from 2006. More than 70,000 people died in the drug war during the Calderon administration.

His successor Enrique Pena Nieto announced the creation of a new national police force to fight crime and the cartels.

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Health & Living

High doses of common pain drugs can cause heart attack

PARIS (AFP) - High doses of some commonly used pain drugs like ibuprofen can increase heart attacks, strokes and related deaths by about a third, a study warned on Thursday.

The drugs, known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), are widely used to manage pain caused by inflammatory disorders.

Over-the-counter doses are lower and generally recommended for short periods for acute painful conditions. Chronic use of more than

about a week or 10 days can be prescribed for back, knee, hip or neck pain, or chronic headaches.

Earlier research had linked the drugs' use to a risk of serious gastrointestinal problems. This led to a new generation of NSAIDs called coxibs that were designed to reduce these complications, but instead came under scrutiny for increasing the risk of heart attacks.

The new study, published in *The Lancet*, found that high doses of not only coxibs but

also older-generation NSAIDs like ibuprofen (Advil) or diclofenac (Voltaren) were associated with heart disease risk.

"For every 1,000 individuals with a moderate risk of heart disease allocated to one year of treatment with high-dose diclofenac or ibuprofen, about three would experience an avoidable heart attack of which one would be fatal," said a press statement accompanying the study.

"In addition, all NSAIDs double the risk of heart failure and produce a 2-4 times increased risk of serious upper gastrointestinal complications such as bleeding ulcers," said the statement.

A high dose of diclofenac is indicated as 150 milligrams per day and of ibuprofen about 2,400 milligrams per day.

The study authors studied the data of 353,000 patients gathered in 639 trials.

They said the increased heart attack risk from NSAIDs rose in proportion to a patient's underlying risk, so it was highest in those with a previous history of heart disease, high blood pressure or cholesterol.

Similar results had been published before, which is why some of the drugs are not available in some countries, said Griffin.

The reason for the heart attack link was not clear, she added, "but likely because they increase likelihood of clotting. These drugs also increase blood pressure."

Alternative medicines include acetaminophens (Tylenol) or opioids.

In a comment on the study, British Pharmacological Society member Donald Singer said the findings underscored a key point: "Powerful drugs may have serious harmful effects."

France sees restrictions on e-cigarettes



PARIS (AFP) - Health Minister Marisol Touraine on Friday said France would apply the same bans to electronic cigarettes as it does to tobacco but would not completely outlaw the popular smokeless product. It means that advertising of so-called e-cigarettes will be banned, as will their sale to under-18s and their use in public places, a measure that has been in place for tobacco since 2007. Invented in China in 2004, the e-cigarette has a diode that heats up a liquid, usually containing propylene glycol, nicotine and flavourings, delivering it as a gas to the lungs with each draw. The user exhales vapour, but not smoke, a practice called "vaping." The argument in favour of the devices is that they do not have the tar, ash and toxins found in conventional cigarettes. For health experts, though the jury is still out. The UN's World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that the safety of e-cigarettes "has not been scientifically demonstrated... (and) the potential risks they pose for the health of users remains undetermined." Several countries, including Colombia, Panama and Uruguay, have banned e-cigarettes.

Amnesty calls PNG revival of death penalty 'regressive'

SYDNEY (AFP) - Amnesty International criticised a move by Papua New Guinea to revive the death penalty as a regressive step for the poverty-stricken Pacific nation, branding it state-sanctioned violence.

The country's parliament on Tuesday passed laws allowing execution by a range of methods, including hanging, electrocution, lethal injection, and firing squad, while repealing its contested sorcery act.

It also vowed to extend the long-dormant death penalty to cover rape, robbery and murder, actions that Amnesty's deputy director for the Asia-Pacific Isabelle Arradon said were counterproductive.

"Papua New Guinea has taken one step forward in protecting women from violence by repealing the sorcery act, but several giant steps back by moving closer to executions," she said.

"The taking of a life -- whether a person is beheaded by villagers or killed by the state -- represents an equally abhorrent violation of human rights."

"The government has failed to heed calls from civil society to not start killing prisoners again."

Capital punishment is currently in place for treason, piracy and wilful murder but Papua New Guinea has not carried out an execution since independence in 1954.

Amnesty said at least 10 people were on death row.

As well as reviving the death penalty, parliament also repealed its 1971 sorcery act, which provided a defence for violent crime if the accused was acting to stop witchcraft.

It means any black magic killings will now be treated as murder punishable by death following a spate of horrific public killings of women accused of sorcery, in which there is a widespread belief in PNG.

According to Amnesty, more than two-thirds of all countries in the world have abolished the death penalty in law or practice with the last known execution taking place in the Pacific in 1982 in Tonga.

Arradon said countries were moving away from the death penalty, in part because there were no assurances it was an effective deterrent to crime.

"By passing these death penalty laws, Papua New Guinea will find it is on the losing side of history," she said.

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Sci-Tech

Stranded Dutch rower rescued from Indian Ocean

SYDNEY (AFP) - A Dutch adventurer rowing from Australia to Africa was rescued from the Indian Ocean Friday after his boat collided with a massive oil tanker, leaving him injured and fearing for his life.

Ralph Tuijn was well into his 9,000 kilometre (5,600 mile), 120-day journey from Western Australia when his boat was swamped on Wednesday after it hit the tanker.

The rescue mission was triggered early Friday when Tuijn activated his distress beacon and a Myanmar-flagged merchant vessel nearby was sent to the scene, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) said.

Ido Hurkmans, who spoke to Tuijn after the collision, said his friend saw the tanker when it was only 300 metres (1,000 feet) away, too late for him to avoid it.

Hurkmans said Tuijn, whose boat is only seven-metres (22-feet) long, had told him that the tanker had dragged him for a long time, during which he overturned four or five times

before he finally broke free.

The incident had left the adventurer anxious and in pain, with suspected cracked ribs and a broken finger. But Hurkmans said Tuijn was "back on his feet" on the merchant vessel, which was headed for Nigeria.

Australian authorities said the Dutchman was extremely lucky to have been picked up so soon from his remote location in the middle of the ocean, about 1,100 nautical miles west of the Cocos Islands.

"It's a pretty well travelled stretch of water but often merchant vessels can be three or four days away and this one was only a couple of hours away," she said.

Tuijn, who has previously rowed the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, left the Cocos on May 5.

Another friend of Tuijn, Geoff Charters, told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that the adventurer would bounce back from the experience.

"He's been attacked by sharks and had close encounters with tankers on the Pacific."

Wreckage of Amelia Earhart plane may be found

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Aviation buffs are wondering if they have detected the long-sought wreckage of Amelia Earhart's plane at the bottom of the Pacific.

Earhart in 1932 became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, going from Canada to England.

In 1937, she disappeared while flying with navigator Fred Noonan on a Lockheed Electra going from Papua New Guinea to California. It was the final stage of a journey to fly around the globe along an equatorial route.

Now, a sonar image found near a remote Pacific island called Nikumaroro during a new expedition known as Niku VII is getting intense attention.

"It's exciting. It's frustrating. It's maddening. There is a sonar image in the data collected during last summer's Niku VII expedition that could be the wreckage of Amelia Earhart's Lockheed Electra," says the website of Tighar, or The International Group for

Historic Aircraft Recovery

The expedition was the tenth of its kind in 23 years. The image was captured on the Pacific sea bed near Nikumaroro in the Kiribati archipelago.

The image was detected at a depth of 183 meters (600 feet), and seems to be less than 10 meter long (32 feet). The fuselage of Earhart's Electra was 11.76 meters (38 feet 7 inches), the web site says.

The team said it would have to go back and have another look.

When she took off in 1937, Earhart planned to land on Howland island to refuel. While flying, however, she radioed that she could not find the island and was low on fuel.

That was the last anyone heard from her. No trace of her plane was ever found.

TIGHAR members say Earhart may have made an emergency landing and survived for some time at Nikumaroro, which is 480 kilometers from Howland.



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Giant asteroid sails safely past Earth

-- A huge asteroid sailed safely past Earth Friday afternoon, making its closest approach to our planet for at least the next two centuries. Asteroid 1998 QE2, which is about 1.7 miles (2.7 kilometers) wide, cruised within 3.6 million miles (5.8 million km) of Earth at 4:59 p.m. EDT (2059 GMT) yesterday, then slipped silently off into the depths of space once again. There was no chance the 1.7-mile-wide 1998 QE2 would hit us, researchers say. That's a good thing, because a strike by such a big space rock would cause catastrophic damage, potentially wiping out our species. In general, scientists think any asteroid bigger than 0.6 miles could end human civilization if it hit us. For comparison, the object that killed off the dinosaurs 65 million years ago is thought to have been about 6 miles wide. Scientists are already watching 1998 QE2 closely, in an attempt to learn more about the asteroid's characteristics and orbit. A team of radio astronomers using NASA's Deep Space Network antenna at Goldstone, Calif., for example, just learned that the asteroid is actually a binary system, with a 2,000-foot-wide moon circling the larger space rock. Researchers plan to use the Goldstone facility as well as the huge Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico to watch 1998 QE2 through June 9, NASA officials said. Asteroid 1998 QE2 was first spotted in August 1998 by astronomers working with MIT's Lincoln Near Earth Asteroid Research program in New Mexico. The space rock's name is not an homage to England's Queen Elizabeth II, or to the famous ocean liner. Rather, it's just the moniker assigned under the established alphanumeric scheme that lays out when asteroids are discovered.

CO MICS

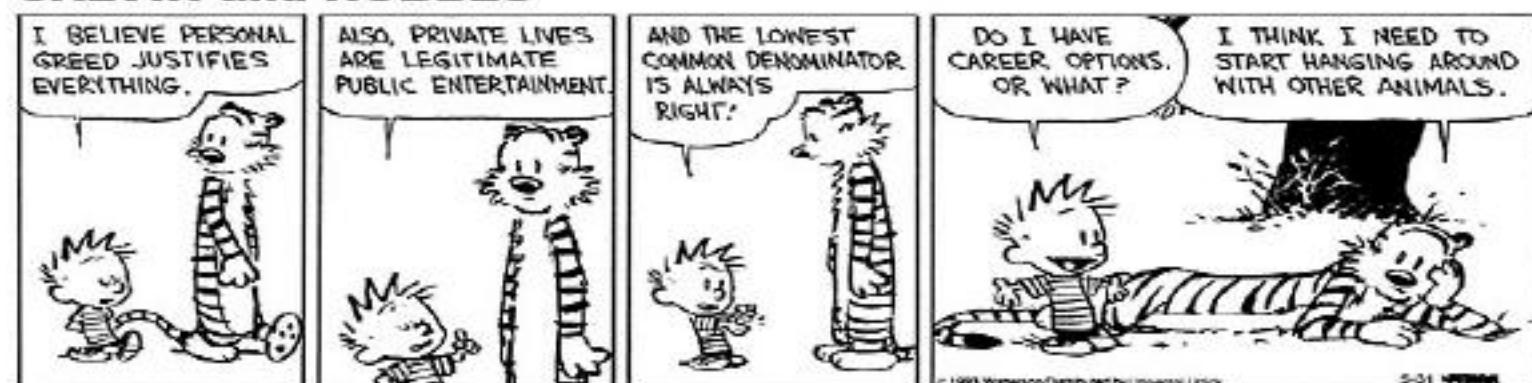
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBES



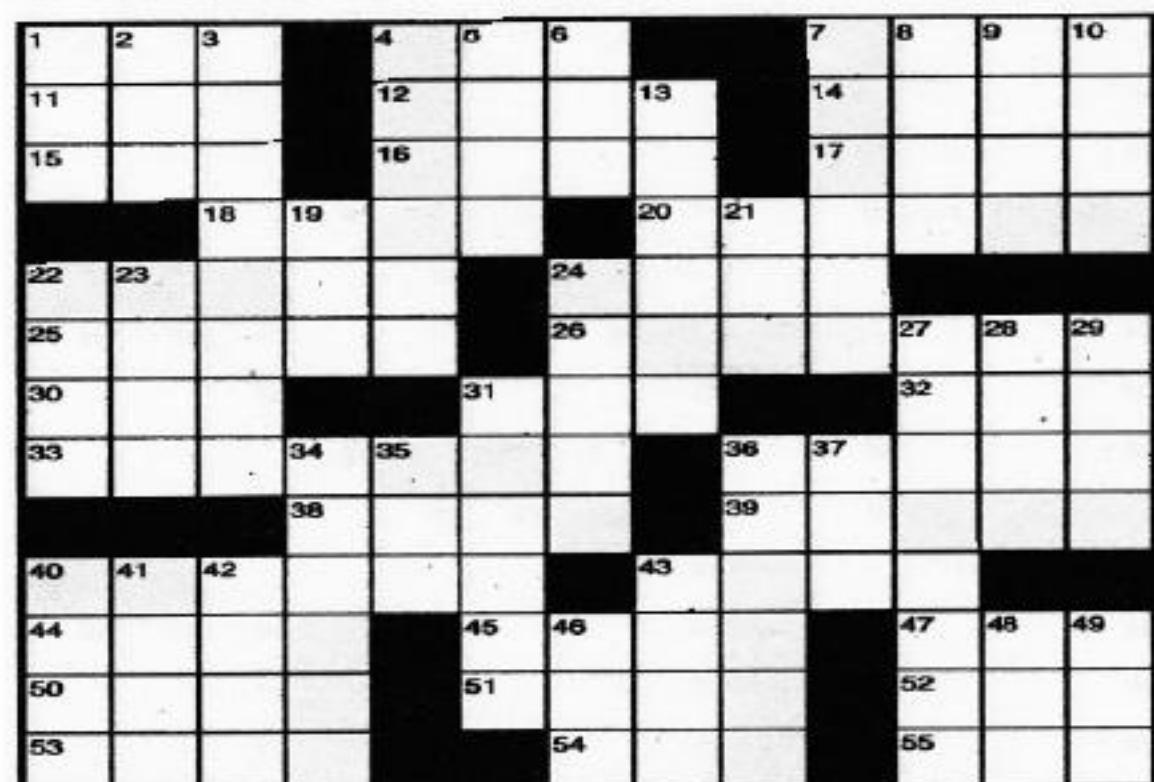
CROSSWORD



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ACROSS

- Teen's channel choice (abbr.)
- One lacking grace
- Nest eggs (abbr.)
- Roman 3
- Biblical pronoun
- "Auld Lang ___"
- 1/60 of a min.
- Bugle, e.g.
- Actress Turner
- Those people
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CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD

- Horseshoe toss
- Scrub clean
- Thug
- Wagons
- Actor Tony
- "___ Lay Dying" (2 wds.)
- Barack, to Malia and Sasha
- "Me," in Paris
- Small hounds
- Abyss
- Harvest
- Rene of "Get Shorty"
- United
- TVA
- constructions
- Common street name
- Borrowed money
- "___ Man" (2 wds.)
- Applied frosting
- Christmas
- Natalie Cole's father
- Spare rooms
- Dweller (abbr.)
- Crest, sometimes
- Scorch
- Take freight off
- Pizza
- Long, long time
- Skinned-knee sight
- Detective's assignment
- Hold tightly
- Gathering
- Forfeiture
- Prom-goer's ride
- Fatal
- Works at Starbucks
- Jackie O's sister
- Hoisting machines
- Low-frequency sound
- Among
- Ornamental edging
- Claim against property
- Carnegie or Earnhardt
- "Flags of ___ Fathers"
- Daisy ___
- Water between the U.S. and Eur.

DOWN

- Behave or print preceder
- Dead heat
- Former British queen
- Additional ones
- Nautical
- Not against
- Nantucket, e.g.
- Actor Robert
- ___ of Cleves
- Scorch
- Take freight off
- Pizza
- Long, long time
- Skinned-knee sight
- Detective's assignment
- Hold tightly
- Gathering
- Forfeiture
- Prom-goer's ride
- Fatal
- Works at Starbucks
- Jackie O's sister
- Hoisting machines
- Low-frequency sound
- Among
- Ornamental edging
- Claim against property
- Carnegie or Earnhardt
- "Flags of ___ Fathers"
- Daisy ___
- Water between the U.S. and Eur.

SOLUTION

1	4	9	6	2	7	3	5	8
2	7	3	8	9	5	4	1	6
3	6	8	5	4	1	7	2	9
4	3	7	5	6	9	2	8	1
5	2	1	3	7	8	5	6	4
6	6	8	2	1	4	9	3	7
7	1	4	7	5	3	6	9	2
8	9	2	1	4	6	8	7	5
9	3	6	9	8	2	1	4	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition, every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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Sudoku

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	5				2	1	4	
	6							7
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1	4	9	6	2	7	3	5	8
2	7	3	8	9	5	4	1	6
3	6	8	5	4	1	7	2	9
4	3	7	5	6	9	2	8	1
5	2	1	3	7	8	5	6	4
6	6	8	2	1	4	9	3	7
7	1	4	7	5	3	6	9	2
8	9	2	1	4	6	8	7	5
9	3	6	9	8	2	1	4	3



Current as 05/31/13	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.70	1.72	1.74
Britain	GBP	2.65	2.60	2.76
Switzerland	CHF	186.54	187.26	188.06
Netherlands	EUR	229.55	231.64	233.97
Sweden	SEK	26.00	26.72	27.52
Denmark	DKK	30.11	30.83	31.63
Norway	NOK	29.46	30.18	30.98
Japan	JPY	175.94	177.55	179.33
(per 10,000)				

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Finance

European stocks, euro drop amid record unemployment

LONDON (AFP) - European stock markets fell and the euro dropped against the dollar yesterday as traders digested record high eurozone unemployment data following weak US numbers, analysts said.

London's FTSE 100 index of leading shares shed 1.11 percent to 6,583.09 points. Frankfurt's DAX 30 index fell 0.61 percent to 8,348.84 points, while in Paris the CAC 40 dropped 1.19 percent to 3,948.59 points. Madrid gave up 1.37 percent and Milan slumped 0.79 percent.

In foreign exchange trading, the euro slipped to \$1.2965 from \$1.3043 late in New York on Thursday.

The dollar gained to 100.95 yen from 100.74 yen on Thursday.

On the London Bullion Market, the price of gold inched down to \$1,394.50 an ounce from \$1,413.50 on Thursday.

The drop in European share prices "is in part associated with

the eurozone unemployment data", said Joshua Mahony, research analyst at Alpari traders. "On the whole this portrays a region which continues to worsen and is unlikely to improve anytime soon."

The eurozone unemployment rate hit a fresh record high level of 12.2 percent in April, with 19.2 million people on the dole as recession continued to sap the economy.

The Eurostat data agency said yesterday that in the 12 months to April, a total 1.6 million people lost their jobs in the 17-nation eurozone.

Meanwhile inflation across the single currency bloc rose to 1.4 percent in May from 1.2 percent in April, the first time for months that the reading has increased, separate official data showed yesterday.

Despite the upturn, the inflation rate remained well below the European Central Bank's target of just below 2.0 percent for a fourth month running.



HEFEI : AFP picture shows an aerial of the new Xinqiao airport, which cost 715 million USD (4.36 billion yuan) and will be capable of handling 11 million passengers by 2020 in Hefei, east China's Anhui province. China plans to build 70 new airports within the next three years and to expand 100 existing airports as part of ambitious expansion plans in the industry despite an economic slowdown, bringing the number of airports in China to 230 by the end of 2015 with Chinese carriers operating around 4,700 planes by then. (AFP PHOTO)

Aruba monetary policy unchanged

ORANJESTAD -- During its meeting on March 28, 2013, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) decided to leave the reserve requirement rate (11 percent) and the advance rate (1 percent) unchanged, after reviewing the most recent economic and monetary data. One of the main considerations for this policy stance is that the net foreign assets (including revaluation differences of gold and foreign exchange holdings) increased by 2.3 percent in January 2013 compared to December 2012, and thus remained at an adequate level when benchmarked against GDP and money supply, as well as when measured in number of months of current account payments. Also, the end of period inflation rate recorded a deflation of 3.2 percent in February 2013, as a result of the substantial decrease in water and electricity tariffs in, respectively, August and November 2012. The 12-month average inflation rate stood at -0.9 percent in February 2013, as the upward adjustments in water and electricity tariffs in April 2011 (+13.3 percent) and August 2011 (+12.5 percent) still had an effect in March 2012 before leveling off as of April 2012.

Furthermore, the aforementioned decrease in utility prices in August and November 2012 led to a decrease in prices in the last five months of 2012. However, the increase in gasoline prices in February 2013 partially negated the downward effect of the reduced utilities tariff. The end of period inflation rate excluding the food and energy items (the core-inflation) stood at 0.2 percent in February 2013. In January 2013, growth in business loans increased by 1.3 percent compared to December 2012, while housing mortgages rose by 0.3 percent. On the other hand, consumer credit contracted by 0.9 percent. Subsequently, overall domestic credit fell by 0.1 percent in January 2013 compared to December 2012.

For 2013 as a whole, the CBA estimates a 3.2 percent domestic credit growth. The CBA will continue to closely follow the developments in the economic and monetary fundamentals.



ADDIS ABABA : Coffee traders shop for deals on the floor of the Ethiopian Commodities Exchange (ECX) in Addis Ababa on May 31, 2013. Established in 2008, the ECX trades only in Coffee, sesame seeds and haricot beans as expansion has been hampered due to limited warehouse capacity and poor telecommunications infrastructure in Ethiopia. Since it was established the ECX has brought transparency to Ethiopia's commodities market, helped producers earn more money by cutting out middle men and increased productivity among farmers, according to ECX CEO Anteneh Assefa.

(AFP PHOTO)

Investments unite China, U.S. & the Caribbean in Caribbean American Heritage Month

NEW YORK-- Investment in the Caribbean region is bringing together a unique coalition for Caribbean American Heritage Month this June, as the United States, China and the Caribbean unite for Invest Caribbean Now 2013.

The sold out Forum on June 5th at the Radisson Martinique Hotel in New York City, comes on the heels of U.S. President Joe Biden's Caribbean trip on May 28th for the signing of the United States - Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, (TIFA) and the first visit to Trinidad & Tobago by the Chinese President Xi Jinping, which taking place from May 31 to June 2.

Xiaoguang Liu, consul in charge of economic and commercial affairs at the Consulate of China in New York will headline a panel on China's growing interests in the Caribbean. Other panelists will include Jianxin Lin, chairman of the American Chinese Commerce Development Association, (ACCDA); and Li Li, managing director of the Chinese American Business Development Center, (CABDC). The Sino-American Friendship Association (SAFA) will present the panel, which will be supported by ACCDA and the CABDC and moderated by Martin Mohabeer, managing director of Spackman Group, a Hong-Kong based venture capital firm.

As well, Anthony Eterno, of the Office of Caribbean Affairs

in the Western Hemisphere Division in the U.S. State Department, will discuss key issues regarding American investment in the Caribbean. Additionally, US-based, Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd will discuss its investments in the Caribbean region before an audience that will include over a dozen Caribbean premiers and ministers of government.

In 2012, U.S. imports from Caribbean countries under the Caribbean Basin Initiative totaled more than \$11 billion, representing a 178 percent increase over the past decade. U.S. exports equaled nearly \$12 billion, representing a 133 percent increase over the past decade.

In 2011, China announced it would lend \$6.3 billion to Caribbean governments, adding considerably to the hundreds of millions of dollars in loans, grants and other forms of economic assistance it has already channelled in the past decade.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Taj Mahal Restaurant, an authentic culinary excursion



-- When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal

will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal;" discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS chose a selection of their singular starters and two main courses with saffron rice, served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef.

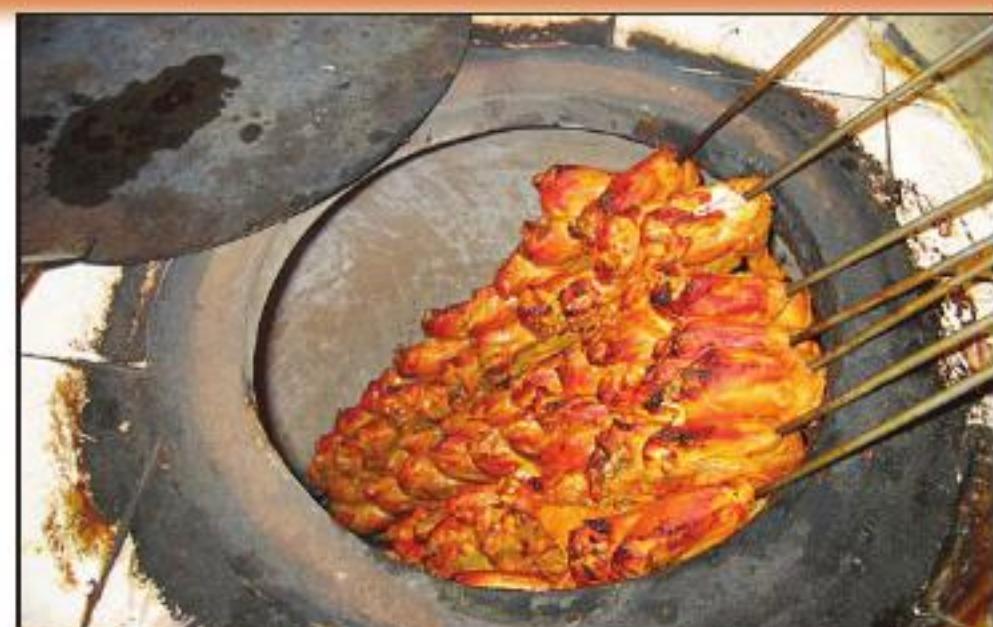
Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki,

potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter

of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them



warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for us; it left a tingle on the tongue.

The family style service allows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining

room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary, they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal!

Call 5884494 for reservations!!!

Honduras gangs open to truce to end violence



A gang member from Mara Salvatrucha tells reporters: "We come here for peace, we want to say sorry to society."

SAN PEDRO SULA (AFP) - Two ultra-violent Honduran gangs apologized this week for their crimes and declared they were willing to discuss a truce to cut violence in the nation with the world's highest murder rate.

Leaders from the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and Mara 18 (M-18) street gangs made their statements in separate press conferences at the prison of San Pedro Sula, the Central American country's second biggest city.

"We want to ask for forgiveness from society before God if we caused pain at any

time," an MS-13 member identified as Marcos told reporters. "We also want to ask for forgiveness from the authorities."

"What we want is peace with God, peace with our society and the authorities," he said.

M-18 members refused to give any names and covered their faces with scarves.

"We come in peace to ask for forgiveness from society," one of them said.

Another M-18 gangster described the event as a "process of dialogue ... to reduce violence."

"We give our word that if the government listens to us, gives us jobs, gives us rights and looks after us, we can continue talking," the man said.

The bishop of San Pedro Sula, Romulo Emiliani, had approached the two gangs months ago in a bid to mediate a truce. President Porfirio Lobo voiced support for the Catholic cleric's mediation efforts.

Emiliani and Adam Blackwell, a representative of the Organization of American States (OAS), attended the press conferences. Blackwell helped to achieve a truce between the same gangs in El Salvador.

Honduras has the highest murder rate in the world with 85.5 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants per year. The country has become a major transit point for US-bound drugs from South America.



RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - A beautiful full moon sets behind the Christ the Redeemer statue on top of Corcovado hill in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on May 25, 2013. Christ the Redeemer (Portuguese: Cristo Redentor, standard Brazilian Portuguese) is a statue of Jesus Christ in Rio de Janeiro, considered one of the largest Art Deco statue in the world and the 5th largest statue of Jesus in the world. It is 30 metres (98 ft) tall, not including its 8 metres (26 ft) pedestal, and its arms stretch 28 metres (92 ft) wide. It weighs 635 tonnes (625 long, 700 short tons), and is located at the peak of the 700-metre (2,300 ft) Corcovado mountain in the Tijuca Forest National Park overlooking the city. A symbol of Brazilian Christianity, the statue has become an icon for Rio de Janeiro and Brazil. It is made of reinforced concrete and soapstone, and was constructed between 1926 and 1931.

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maintain. It is only three stories and twenty luxurious units, of which 14 will be oceanfront, the remainder, ocean view. Sizes range from one bedroom condominiums with a bath and a half to three-bedrooms, each bedroom with its own bath, and an additional guest half/bath. The designs include a family entertainment room that will

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services, lounge area, BBQ station, fitness room, assigned parking, additional outside storage for bicycles and personal items, and 24-hour security. A quiet, secluded section of Eagle Beach is only a few steps from the front door.

O Condominiums officially opened the doors of their sales office onsite at Eagle Beach on December 24. Interested parties can inspect the project in a spacious plot right next to the gourmet Screaming Eagle restaurant. The project is directed towards discerning clients seeking a top quality property on Aruba in an ideal, tranquil, beachfront location. Prospective property owners will find the Cas Bon people enjoy an exceptional reputation on Aruba for excellence and reliability.

Contact the sales office at 297-732-0000/ 297-287-5300 or visit their website: <http://www.o-eaglebeach.aruba.com>

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

-- An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming

eateries their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of

chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses of Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. They are open from

11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining.

Tel. 5860606 and email: saus.arubancuisine@live.com.

from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!



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SPORTS

Football: Experimental Italy thump San Marino

MILAN (AFP) - An experimental Italy side outclassed San Marino 4-0 three days before coach Cesare Prandelli trims his squad for the double challenge of a World Cup qualifier and next month's Confederations Cup.

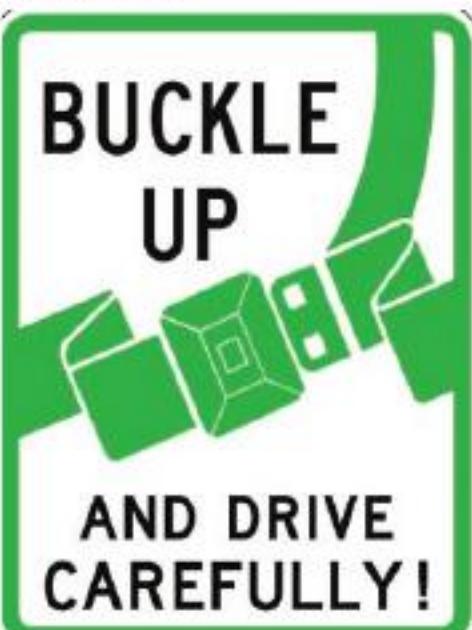
In a largely one-sided game at Bologna's Stadio Dall'Ara, Andrea Poli, Alberto Gilardino, Andrea Pirlo and Alberto Aquilani were all on target as Prandelli ran the rule over his final, 23-man travelling party to be named Monday.

Italy face the Czech Republic away on June 7 and then travel to Brazil for the Confederations Cup a week later.

Prandelli's starting XI looked nothing like the sides he has sent out in various tactical formations in previous fixtures this season.

Employing a 4-3-3, the coach handed a rare start to Bologna's Alessandro Diamanti, who was flanked by Bologna club-mate Alberto Gilardino and Giacomo Bonaventura on what was the Atalanta striker's debut.

It meant no start for Mario Balotelli or Stephan El Shaarawy, however given their domination throughout it seemed Prandelli, on this occasion, could do without the AC Milan stars.



Only seven minutes in, Bonaventura almost handed Italy the lead when he got on the end of a knock down following a long ball from Pirlo, only to see the visitors' goalkeeper Aldo Simoncini pull off a fine one-handed save.

Midfielder Christian Maggio had the ball in the net but was ruled offside and then a well-struck, angled drive from Diamanti was on target but punched out by an alert Simoncini.

Gilardino made his plea for a place in the squad with a smart first-time shot from a long midfield ball just before the half hour.

But it was Poli who stole the show moments later, the Sampdoria midfielder pouncing on a loose ball and riding a sliding tackle before rifling the ball past Simoncini to score his first goal for Italy.

The hosts went 2-0 up on 34 minutes when Gilardino finished off good work from Aquilani, who had forced a save from Simoncini, to score on the follow-up.

Prandelli made a number of changes after the interval, with Bonaventura, Gilardino and Diamanti replaced by Cagliari striker Marco Sau, Balotelli and Alessio Cerci.

Only moments after the restart Gianluigi Buffon had to block from a dangerous position when a probing free kick caused confusion in Italy's area.

Calm was restored shortly after when Pirlo stepped up to score Italy's third with a curling freekick from 25 metres out.

The hosts continued to dominate and Balotelli spurned several chances before Aquilani wrapped up the win with a simple tap-in in the 78th minute.

Football: Vilanova insists Barca seat is safe

MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona coach Tito Vilanova insisted Friday he would still be in charge of the newly crowned Spanish champions next season despite press rumours to the contrary.

Vilanova missed two months of the current season after heading to New York for cancer treatment.

He was replaced during that time by his assistant Jordi Roura.

But the 44-year-old says reports of his imminent professional demise are grossly exaggerated.

"I have nothing to clarify. I can repeat what I've already said louder but not clearer," said Vilanova. "I will be coaching Barcelona next season."

"Obviously when someone has been ill, as I have, there are certain routine tests to be done that will mean I will have to be absent a few days next season. But the club knows that and they believe in me."

Vilanova was diagnosed with cancer of the saliva glands in December, the second time he had contracted the illness.

Barcelona's form dipped during his absence, although they still cantered to the Spanish La Liga title.

Upon his return, Vilanova insisted he would honour his contract until the end of next season but press rumours suggest he will be replaced either by former Barca youth team coach Luis Enrique, who left the club for an unsuccessful year at the Roma helm in Italy last season, or Valencia's Ernesto Valverde.

Football: Bordeaux beat Evian to win French Cup



PARIS (AFP) - Bordeaux won their first French Cup in 26 years, beating minnows Evian 3-2 in the final at the Stade de France on Friday. That result ensured Bordeaux will qualify for the Europa League next season. Cheick Diabate was the hero, netting the 89th minute winner having earlier opened the scoring and missed a penalty at 1-0. In an entertaining game Evian twice pegged back their more illustrious opponents before Diabate's strike at the death finally extinguished their spirited resistance. It was only four years ago that Bordeaux were last French champions and although they had not won the French Cup for a long time, they had won the League Cup three times in the last 11 years.

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Tennis: Nadal blasts French Open 'joke', Federer surges

PARIS (AFP) - Defending champion Rafael Nadal blasted French Open schedulers as a "joke" Friday as long-time rival Roger Federer remained on Roland Garros easy street.

Spanish third seed Nadal, chasing an unprecedented eighth Paris title, saw off Slovakia's Martin Klizan 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 to record his 54th win in 55 matches at the tournament.

For the second round in succession, the 26-year-old dropped the first set as he struggled in the cold, heavy conditions where the temperature just crept over the 12-degree mark.



He then launched a blistering attack on tournament chiefs who he described as a "joke" and claimed he was being treated unfairly.

Nadal's match had been held over from Thursday after torrential rain swamped Paris.

He had been placed third on the Court Suzanne Lenglen schedule, following one men's match and a women's singles.

His third round opponent, Fabio Fognini, meanwhile, had been scheduled second on Court Three to follow just one women's singles match which took only an hour to complete.

Nadal was further incensed when he was told that Fognini had been given an earlier start

time because he and opponent Lukas Rosol had doubles to play later together in the day.

"Today I was playing three hours while my opponent was in the locker room watching TV," said Nadal.

"I cannot play third when my opponent has played second. The excuse they gave me was that they had to play doubles, but that's a joke. In that case I should sign up for doubles."

With third seed Nadal having to play his third round match on today, second seed Federer has already ensured his place in the last 16.

His 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 win over France's 30th seed Julien Benneteau marked his best start to the tournament.

Racing: Talent shines through in Epsom Oaks



Jockey Richard Hughes rides Talent to victory in The Oaks at the Epsom Derby Festival in Surrey, southern England, yesterday.

EPSOM (AFP) - Talent gave jockey Richard Hughes his second English classic win of the season as she produced a stunning burst of speed to win the Epsom Oaks on Friday.

Hughes - 40 and who had not ridden an English classic winner until Sky Lantern won the 1000 Guineas earlier this month - guided the 20/1 Ralph Beckett-trained outsider ahead of better fancied stablemate Secret Gesture (3/1).

Secret Gesture - which Qatari Sheikh Fahad al Thani bought half of earlier in the week - edged out 16/1 chance The Lark while Irish champion trainer Aidan O'Brien's favourite Moth was fourth.

Hughes admitted that he had not been very confident after he saw the filly for the first time earlier in the week at Beckett's stables.

However, it was a different impression once he had her going in the race itself.

Talent, whose sire (father) New Approach has the favourite in Saturday's Epsom Derby in Dawn Approach, was Beckett's second win in the race, having won with 33/1 outsider Look Here in 2008.

However, Beckett admitted he had thought Hughes might

turn down the ride after he saw her in the stables.

"Richard came to ride her work and I knew by the look on his face he thought, 'I don't fancy this much'" said the 42-year-old. "I wasn't watching her until she loomed up on the outside - she's very tough. What a day."

Moth and Secret Gesture looked to have the race between them entering the final two furlongs but the former found nothing when jockey Joseph O'Brien asked for an extra effort.

Jim Crowley, however, looked to have the race won until Hughes brought Talent from third last to first in seconds and she eventually prevailed by a comfortable 3 and 3/4 lengths.

Oaks day also saw the return of star jockey Frankie Dettori after he served a ban for taking cocaine, but if the crowd were hoping for a fairytale they were to be disappointed as the Italian finished last on the two rides he had prior to the Oaks.

"I'm afraid a little bit for the future but I'm positive, have a good clear head and am looking forward to the challenge," tweeted the 42-year-old, who did not have a ride in the Oaks.

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NBA: MVP James lifts Heat over Pacers



MIAMI (AFP) - LeBron James scored 16 of his 30 points in a pivotal third quarter on Thursday to lead the Miami Heat to a 90-79 victory over Indiana and to within one win of returning to the NBA finals.

The reigning NBA champion Heat took a 3-2 lead over the Pacers in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference finals.

The winner of the series will face Western Conference champion San Antonio in the league's title series beginning June 6.

Trailing 44-40 at halftime, the Heat out-scored Indiana 30-13 in a third quarter that may prove to be the difference in what has been a close, physical and sometimes testy series.

Fittingly it was James, who recently collected the fourth regular-season Most Valuable Player award of his career, leading the charge.

He single-handedly out-scored the Pacers by three points and also handed out four assists of his six assists and grabbed four of his eight

rebounds.

"That's LeBron showing his greatness, and making it look easy," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "His engine in that third quarter was just incredible."

The Heat will try to finish off the Pacers in Indiana in game six today and return to the NBA finals for the third straight year.

Even if the Pacers win today to force a game seven, they'll have to return to Miami for the decider.

With the win, the Heat avoided the sort of desperate situation they faced last year, when they went down 2-3 to the Boston Celtics in the conference finals but won the last two games to reach the finals, where they beat Oklahoma City for the crown.

After connecting on 51 percent of their shots from the floor in the first half, the Pacers made just three field goals in the third quarter.

The Heat scored 16 of the next 18 points, James scoring seven points in surge.



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is the mourning after.**

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